



Atty. Dkt. No. 080542-0151

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Isao MOCHIDA et al.

Title: EXHAUST GAS TREATING SYSTEMS

Appl. No.: 09/642,009

Filing Date: 08/21/2000

Examiner: S. Hendrickson

Art Unit: 1754

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AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated September 26, 2002, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 31-38 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121, please substitute for original claims 6, 7, 39, 40, 47, and 48, the following rewritten versions of the same claims, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version Showing Changes Made."

6. (Three times amended) A desulfurization process which comprises bringing a gas containing SO₂, water, and oxygen into contact with a hydrophobic heat-treated active carbon fiber wherein said heat-treated active carbon fiber has been obtained by heat-treating a starting active carbon in a non-oxidizing atmosphere, thereby rendering said heat-treated active carbon fiber hydrophobic.